

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, FR, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE REACTION TO PREPCON-ROUND 2

REF: TOKYO 14793 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: JAPANESE MEDIA OCT. 17 REPORTED PREPCON AGREEMENT ON GUIDELINES FOR PRODUCER-CONSUMER MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER. ALL ACCOUNTS REPORTED THAT COMPROMISE SOLUTION INCLUDED ESTABLISHMENT OF FOUR COMMISSIONS, ON ENERGY, RAW MATERIALS, DEVELOPMENT AND FINACE AND NOTED THAT BOTH DC'S AND LDC'S MAY SUBMIT NON-BINDING SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED IN COMMISSIONS.

1. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE JAPAN TIMES AND ASAHI EVENING NEWS CITED US PROPOSAL AS BASIS FOR SOLUTION.

2. VERNACULAR PRESS COMMENTED THAT PREPCON HAD BOTH HEIGHTENED NORTH

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SOUTH ISSUES AND BEGUN AN APPROACH TO THEM IN REASONABLE

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MANNER ALTHOUGH SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN. IN

ADDITION:

A. NIHON KEIZAI CITED US DESIRE TO MAINTAIN DIA-LOGUE WHILE CONTINUING TO OPPOSE COMMODITY AGREEMENTS OR PRICE SUPPORT SCHEMES FOR PRIMARY PROEUCTS: COMMENDED LDC'S FOR DISCARDING "UNREALISTIC PHILOSOPHY" AND TACKLING SERIOUS PROBLEMS; CITED GOJ HOPES TO EXERT MODERATING INFLUENCE ON OPEC OIL PRICE INCREASE THROUGH CONTINUING DIALOG.

B. SENKEI REPORT (FROM PARIS) COMMENDED FRENCH EFFORTS OVER SIX-MONTH PERIOD.

C. MAINICHI SHINBUN QUOTED FONOFF SPOKESMAN AS EXPRESSING EXPECTATION THAT "QUITE DIALOG" WOULD LEAD TO OIL PRODUCERS AND LDC'S TAKING INCREASINGLY REALISTIC POSITIONS--"FIRST STEP TOWARD ESTABLISHING NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER SINCE BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENT." (EMBASSY COMMENT: WE ARE TRYING TO RUN THIS ONE DOWN.)

D. YOMIURI SEES ADVANCED NATIONS BEING REQUIRED TO BEAR HEAVY BURDEN TO RESOLVE NORTH-SOUTH PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED IN PREPCON AND SAYS GOJ AGENCIES WILL NEED TO FORM UNIFIED VIEW TO COPE WITH DECEMBER MEETING. IT SEES GOJ TAKING POSITIONS IN COMMISSION AS FOLLOWS: FINANCE--MOF HOPES TO CONFINE AGENDA TO ECONOMIC AID; PRIMARY PRODUCTS--MITI AND AGRIC/FORESTRY ARE CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE DEMANDS FOR FULL LIBERALI-ZATION OF PRIMARY PRODUCT IMPORTS INTO JAPAN; ENERGY--GOJ MIGHT JOIN OR INITIATE DEMAND FOR REDUCTION OF CRUDE OIL PRICES.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: FOREGOING ARE IMMEDIATE PRESS REACTIONS WITH LITTLE OR NO OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSULTATION WITH RESPONSIBLE JAPANESE OFFICIALS. WE EXPECT JAPAN'S ECONOMIC LEADERS WILL BE MAKING THEIR CONSIDERMMENTS OVER NEXT SEVERAL DAYS; EMBASSY WILL REPORT THIS CON-SENSUS--BUILDING PROCESS AS IT DEVELOPS.
HODGSON

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